

IMMINENT HEALTH HAZARDS

STOP OPERATING & REPORT

An Imminent Health Hazard (IHH) is defined as a significant threat or danger to public health that requires an immediate correction or an establishment to close and stop serving food to prevent injury. Imminent health hazards include:

- An emergency such as fire or flood.
- A loss of power service for an extended amount of time.
- No running water.
- Wastewater or sewage backup.
- Misuse of poisonous or toxic materials.
- Poor sanitation (lack of hot water to properly clean, pest infestation, etc.).
- Any circumstance that may endanger public health (foodborne illness outbreak, etc.).



If the above conditions exist, a food establishment is required to immediately stop operations and notify the Snohomish County Health Department by calling 425-359-8730 or by e-mailing food.safety@snoco.org. Written approval to reopen is required after closure.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The following corrective actions may be required:

- Close the establishment or an area if the hazard cannot be corrected immediately.
- A health inspection to provide written approval before reopening.
- Throw away any food that may have been contaminated by fire, flood, sewage, pests, or poor sanitation.
- Throw away any Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) Food that has been in the temperature danger zone for more than 4 hours. (41°F – 135°F)
- Hire a licensed pest control company to provide service.
- Send employees with reportable symptoms or diagnosis of reportable foodborne illness home until symptoms are gone.
- Supervised and documented deep clean of the establishment.

